

CHAMPION, INC.
P.O. Box 490
IRON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN 49801

WM. C. VERRETTE
CHAIRMAN

March 14, 2001

Mr. Brad Botwin, Director
Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Export Administration
U S Department of Commerce
Room 3876
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Botwin:

I am writing in support of the United States iron ore industry and the Department of Commerce Section 232 investigation to determine if iron ore produced in this country is vital to national security.

My company, Champion, Inc., is a vendor and contractor to the industry in Minnesota and Michigan. We employ approximately 650 people. If iron ore mining is shut down in the areas we do business, our company will face a very serious challenge.

In 1999 the iron ore mining companies lead by Cleveland Cliffs Inc. accounted for 46% of Champion's annual sales. There are no other industries in the rural areas of Minnesota and Michigan that could replace this business if it were lost.

I have read the criteria the Department uses to determine impact and most seem to apply to the iron ore industry. Certainly displacement of iron ore mining in the United States would cause substantial unemployment at the mines and within the vendor, supplier and contractor organizations that service the iron mining industry. There would be significant loss of government revenues and the work force of specially trained people would quickly move to other parts of the country or remain in the area largely unemployed.

There are other Department criteria that apply. However, I would like to focus on one point that may not be fully understood.

A very high percentage of the iron ore mined in the United States is of low grade when compared to iron ore mined elsewhere in the world. This low grade ore called taconite cannot be extracted from the ground and shipped directly to a steel

Mr. Brad Botwin
March 14, 2001
Page Two

mill. Taconite must be beneficiated, improved and upgraded into taconite pellets before it can be sent to market. If the mines are shut down you cannot restart shipment of iron ore with just a power shovel and rail cars.

Restart up time for an iron ore taconite pellet plant is directly proportional to a multiple of the shut down time. That is, it takes a great deal more time to restart an iron ore pellet plant than it does to shut one down. When a pellet plant closes, vital equipment is usually sold and the skilled staff disappears. If you do not have skilled employees and the specialized equipment is gone, several years may be needed to restart an iron ore mining operation.

In a time of national crisis, we will not have the luxury of that time.

I respectfully ask the Department of Commerce to find the United States Iron Ore Industry essential to national security and protect it as such. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wm. C. Verrette", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wm. C. Verrette
Chief Executive Officer

WCV/cr

**ELY TOWNSHIP
1555 COUNTY ROAD 496
ISHPEMING, MI 49849**

**906-486-6802
FAX-906-486-6620**

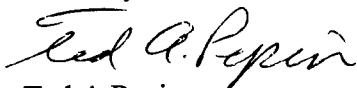
February 27, 2001

Brad Botwin, Director
Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Export Administration
US Department of Commerce
Room 3876
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Botwin:

Enclosed please find a copy of Ely Township Resolution 200 1 - 1, concerning steel dumping in the United States. The Ely Township Board **fully** supports the investigation of the illegal practice of steel dumping in the United States market. This is a threat to the United States economy and our National Defense. We do not want to become dependent upon foreign steel during a national crisis. Please take all necessary actions to enforce our trade laws and eliminate this unfair and illegal assault on our communities.

Sincerely,



Ted A Pepin
Supervisor

cc: file
enc

ELY TOWNSHIP
1555 COUNTY ROAD 496
ISHPEMING, MI 49849

PHONE (906) 486-6802
FAX (906) 486-6620

RESOLUTION NO. 2001 - 1

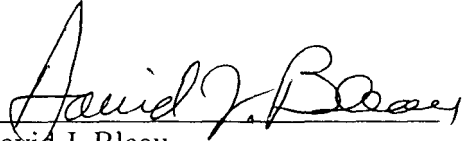
RESOLUTION CONCERNING STEEL DUMPING IN THE UNITED STATES

Whereas, the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company and the mines of the Marquette Range are a significant part of the local economy, and their continued operation is vital to maintaining a healthy local economy; and

Whereas, the continued operation of these mines is threatened by the illegal dumping of foreign steel in the domestic market; and

Whereas, the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, the United Steelworkers of America, and the steel company partners in the Empire and Tilden mines have invested heavily in modernization of these operations and increased their productivity dramatically.'

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the Ely Township Board does hereby request that our Senators and Representatives in the State Legislature and in Congress, along with the administrations of Governor John Engler and President George W. Bush, thoroughly investigate the practice of steel dumping in the U.S. market and take all necessary actions to enforce our trade laws and eliminate this unfair and illegal assault on our communities.


David J. Bleau
Ely Township Clerk

Adopted: February 21, 2001

March 9, 2001

Mr. Brad Botwin, Director
Strategic Analysis Division, Bureau of Export Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3876
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Botwin,

I live in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and have become very concerned over the importing of subsidized iron slabs into the United States.

By allowing the semi-finished slabs to enter the United States **from** foreign countries, we are putting the country into the same situation we are in with the oil situation. Our mining operations will be forced to cut down even more on production than they have already, thus the mine operations will be producing at a minimum pace and when the foreign importers decided to stop sending these slabs to the United States or decide to raise the price of each slab, we will be so dependant on them, we will have to abide by their whims.

Our mining operations here in the Upper Peninsula are competing on a par with foreign operations, yet cannot keep up with the foreign subsidies on the slabs.

Our mining industry in the United States has to have a reason to keep the iron industry producing and the equipment updated. We need to keep trade the market place on an even competitive atmosphere and not subsidize foreign imports. The United States wants to be able to compete fairly and evenly with foreign companies.

Please look into the **unfair** importation of these iron ore slabs and let United States companies keep up the production in an **fair** competitive environment. We citizens do not want to be placed in the same situation as we are with the foreign oil companies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Paddock".

Mary Ann Paddock
237 West Michigan Street
Marquette, Michigan 49855
paddockrma@Aol.Com

From: Satura Bridgewater <sbridgewater@steel.org>
To: "Brad Botwin" <bbotwin@bxa.doc.gov>
Date: 3/6/01 4:28PM
Subject: California Steel Fact Sheet re: Pending Section 232 Case

Dear Brad:

While the American Iron and Steel institute (AISI) is neutral on the pending **Section 232** investigation into imports of iron ore and semifinished steel--because AISI does not have a consensus among its U.S. member companies--a number of our members hold strong views on this subject.

As the investigation proceeds, many of our members will no doubt seek to provide input on their own behalf. The attached "fact sheet" represents the views of California Steel Industries (CSI), an AISI member company. CSI would appreciate it if you would consider their views carefully as the investigation proceeds.

Barry Solarz
AISI
BSolarz@steel.org

CC: Andrew Sharkey <asharkey@steel.org>

FACT SHEET

California Steel Industries, Inc. (**CSI**) is located approximately 50 miles east of Los Angeles in Fontana, California. CSI is the leading and only producer in the western United States which can supply the widest range of flat rolled products, including hot rolled, cold rolled and galvanized coil and sheet. CSI also produces electric resistance welded (ERW) pipe.

CSI's principal market consists of the 11 states located west of the Rocky Mountains. CSI maintains over 300 active customers, with no single customer accounting for more than 6% of sales. CSI's customers include service centers, construction and building material companies and manufacturers of roofing, decking, structural tubing, auto wheels, packaging and containers. ERW Pipe products are sold to oil and gas producers and distributors.

From approximately 1.8 million tons of steel products delivered by CSI each year, about 80% of these tons are destined to California-based customers. CSI's annual revenues average \$700 million.

Over the last five years, CSI has paid a yearly average of \$23.7 million in income, property and employment taxes.

CSI has a work force of about 1000 employees, with an annual payroll and benefit package of \$60 million.

Unlike integrated steel mills and mini-mills, CSI does not manufacture any molten steel. Rather, CSI's business model is based in acquiring 100% of its raw material in the form of **SLABS** and rolling them into steel finished products. **SLABS** are a semi-finished steel product in rectangular form, weighing around 16-20 tons each and are generally the first form taken by molten steel after it solidifies. Users of **SLABS** are either steel producers (integrated steel mills) or processors that further roll the **SLABS** into finished products like coil and plate. ~~End users do not buy SLABS, only integrated steel mills buy SLABS.~~

Since CSI's inception in November 1984 and until December 2000, approximately 22 million tons of **SLABS** were bought by CSI from various countries and suppliers.

Over this period, US domestic suppliers provided about 12% of **CSI's SLABS** requirement. These US suppliers, exclusively integrated steel mills, usually produce **SLABS** only for its own rolling needs. If there is an imbalance between their **SLABS** production and rolling capacities, those US mills produce some **SLABS** for sale. As such, CSI cannot depend on them on a regular basis as reliable suppliers.

In addition to the lack of reliability in the supply, there exists a high cost factor of about \$50 per ton involved in bringing these **SLABS** to California from the integrated steel mills back East or mid-west.

✓ The only US steel mill that is actively supplying CSI with **SLABS** is Geneva Steel in Utah. Geneva has supplied CSI with roughly 1.2 million tons of **SLABS** since 1993.

The bulk of CSI's **SLABS** requirement, or about 90%, depends on the international **SLABS** market. Since November 1984, CSI has imported 19.2 million tons of **SLABS** from 39 different foreign steel mills in 22 countries. Of these 39 steel mills, it is important to note that only two mills are exclusively **SLABS** producers with no finished product facilities; Companhia Siderurgica de Tubarao (CST) of Brazil and Ispat Mexicana, S.A. de C.V. (Imexsa) of Mexico.

Historically, the main exporting countries of **SLABS** to CSI were:

Brazil	10.5 million tons
Australia	2.3 million tons
Mexico	1.7 million tons
Japan	0.8 million tons

Today, Brazil, Australia, Mexico and the United States continue to be the main sources of **SLABS** to CSI. Other suppliers are China, Japan, Slovakia, South Africa and Venezuela.

In 2001, CSI is expecting to buy around 1.7 million tons of **SLABS** from steel mills around the world as listed below. This tonnage represents about 10% of the international **SLABS** market, making CSI the world largest single **SLABS** importer.

Brazil	Companhia Siderurgica de Tubarao - CST Acos Minas Gerais – ACOMINAS
Australia	BHP Steel
Mexico	Ispat Mexicana, S.A de C.V. - Imexsa
Japan	Kawasaki Steel Corporation NKK Corporation
China	Wuhan Iron and Steel (Group) Corporation Benxi Iron and Steel (Group) Co., Ltd.
Slovakia	U. S. Steel Kosice
South Africa	IsCOR Steel Flat Products
Venezuela	Siderurgica Del Orinoco (SIDOR), C.A.
United States	Geneva Steel

Finally, it is important to emphasize that CSI does not have any steel melting facility in its site in Fontana. Therefore, **SLABS are CSI's raw material**. CSI's **SLABS** based business model is environmentally friendly and is the source of its survival.-

* substantial imported **SLABS** tonnage, comprising of 90% of CSI's needs, cannot be replaced by the US domestic steel mills.

From: "Labar's" <wbilake@chartermi.net>
To: <bbotwin@bxa.doc.gov>
Date: 3121012:06PM
Subject: Dumping of Slab Steel

Mr. Botwin:

I hope you will act promptly to curb the dumping of slab steel into the United States. This dumping has been investigated to a point I don't know what's left to research. I feel it's way past the time that immediate action be taken to stop talking and giving lip service. The records are there and have been for many years. We in the steel industry have testified and done what we can on the local and state level to get action and now it's way past the time for our National Government to act now! Our new administration has the opportunity. All they need is the guts to get this problem resolved. We don't need excuses, we need action. Your prompt attention will be appreciated. I write this note as a retired raw material supplier for the steel industry with 40 years of service.

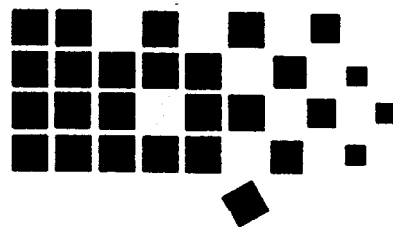
Wilbur E. LaBar-Rt#2 Box 2401 - Manistique, MI. 49854

GranotLomaInc.

P.O. Box 69

800 Carp River Road, Ishpeming, Michigan 49849

Telephone (906) 485-5833



February 23, 2001

Mr. Brad Botwin
Director of Strategic Analysis, Div.
Bureau of Export Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 3876
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Rep. Bart Stupak Request for Comments on Slab Steel
Imports and its National Security Implications.

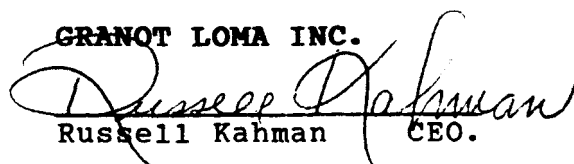
Dear Mr. Botwin:

As a resident of Ishpeming, Marquette County in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, I live in the heart of Iron Ore country in Representative Stupak District. I DO NOT share the opinions of Mr. Stupak, The entrenched establishment, nor the **Local City-**County Officials who are always pressing our public for resolutions indicating that National Security is at Stake if steel exports are allowed to continue. Nothing is further from the truth-1-step of steel making is being eliminated that's all.

Unfortunately for us, the step being eliminated is what our area relied on **for** 100 years. Iron ore pellets are no longer needed as export slab steel is now available thru exports. Please advise me which country is **our** Security Threat...? Why would you want to stop exports in the new Global Economy? The only threat that I see to National Security is the continuation of these false activities by these special local interests. We **currently have** and used **retraining** funds **previously** established by the federal government. We now **need** a new approach as herein submitted for consideration. We need a grant-program (Similar to the **Appalachian program**) to assist our area thru GRANTS for new **business** startups. This has worked in Ky and W, Va .

in closing, good luck in holding back our special interests. If such a program is established, our corporation will submit a **1½** Billion business plan (20,000) jobs in seven years.

Sincerely,

GRANOT LOMA INC.

Russell Kahman CEO.

Douglas G. Villa
1509 West "A" St.
Iron Mountain, MI, 49801

dougnlu@up.net

March 3, 2001

Brad Botwin, Director
Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Export Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 3876
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Sir:

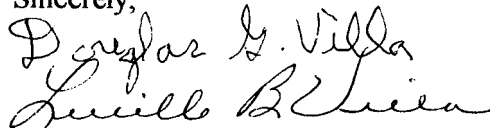
I am a veteran of World War 11 and grew up at a time when our enemies caught us napping. This was especially true in the areas of iron ore and steel.

For a long time it was catch up and when I returned from the Service I saw many local landmarks gone - cut up for scrap to aid our war effort and to help alleviate the shortages in the steel industry.

After World War 11 we rebuilt the Japanese steel industry with U. S. dollars and now they are hurting us. We won the war from Japan on the battlefield but now they are winning a war against our steel industry.

Please do all that you can to preserve and protect our iron ore and steel industry from unfair imports and dumping. I am too old to go back in the Service to protect our Country from unfair competition. Please help to keep our iron ore and steel industry strong!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Douglas G. Villa and Lucille B. Villa in cursive script.

Douglas G. & Lucille B. Villa

cc: **Bart Stupak**
1st District, Michigan
2348 Rayburn Bldg.
Washington, DC 205 15



Northeastern Minnesota Development Association

312 W. FIRST ST. | DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55602 / (AREA 216) 722-1464
2105 FOURTH AVE. E. | HIBBING, MINNESOTA 55746 | (216) 2626176

March 16, 2001

This letter is in reference to your investigation of Sec. 232 requested by Congressman **Bart** Stupak and James Oberstar. Without a good iron ore industry, the United **States** would not have an adequate supply of domestic iron and steel to maintain our defense infrastructure.

The loss of over five thousand mining jobs in Minnesota factored with the spin off jobs for each direct mining jobs would be devastating to this area. If the iron ore mines close down, the highly trained workforce will be forced to leave the area to find other employment opportunities.

Please do the right thing with your investigation of Sec. 232. If we lose the lifeblood of our community we risk losing our highly trained workforce. When it is widely understood that the federal government's actions or inactions were in large part responsible for that loss, the community loses faith in their government.

Sincerely,

Sally Christensen
Assistant Director

CONSTRUCTION

LABOR-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

March 16, 2001

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Gary Benjamin, Co-Chairman
Champion, Inc.
Michael Donnelly, Co-Chairman
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Brad Peterson
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Ray Stern
Sheet Metal Workers Local 7
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Ironworkers Local 8
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Conciliation Service
William Verrette
Champion, Inc.

Brad Botwin, Director
Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Export Administration
U.P. Dept. of Commerce, Room 3876
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Botwin:

The U.P. Construction **Labor** Management Council represents four thousand (4,000) trades people and two hundred and fifty (250) contractors in **the Upper** Peninsula of Michigan. We write today to **express our concern** over the impact of imported steel. We feel that one of our most basic industries is **in jeopardy** due to the steel dumping that is happening at this time.

Iron ore mines have closed, **Others** are having shut downs or rollbacks and facing closure, Steel mills are in bankruptcy. All of this floods into our **communities**. Layoffs are beginning to happen. As plants close federal, state and local taxes are not able to provide the school's needed revenue;

Most everyone in this area has a military connection. Fathers, sons and daughters **have all** entered into the services during peacetime and war. How do we **continue** this tradition knowing their equipment for protection and battle are 'dependent upon steel and parts from a foreign nation? The simple answer - we do not.

We gave up the TV's VCR's **phones, clothing**, shoes, appliances and withstood the attempt at cars for the most part, Now we must fight for the most fundamental block of our economy. Protect our vital iron and steel industries.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Hogan

Thomas A. Hogan
Executive Director

UPCLMC, INC.

1401 North 26th Street • Escanaba, Michigan 49829-0364
Phone (906) 786-1573 • 800-628-7570 • FAX (906) 786-2740

"CONTRACTORS AND UNIONS BUILDING A QUALITY **U.P.**"

March 14, 2001

Brad Botwin Director
Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Export Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 3 876
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Botwin

I am writing today concerning the Department of Commerce **Sec 232** investigation, which was requested by Congressman Oberstar of Minnesota and Congressman Stupak of Michigan. I am a third generation Steelworker, and president of Local 2705, which services a **Taconite** plant in the Mesaba Iron Range in Minnesota. Our final product is a taconite pellet, which is then shipped to a Steel mill in the United States, which in **turn** uses it in their blast furnaces to make steel. In the last four years we have seen an increase of imports in semi-finished steel and steel slabs which can be used in place of **taconite** pellets to make steel without the use of the blast furnace. Our National Security can be in great danger if we continue to use this foreign product.

As President of Local 2705 which has 630 steelworker members we have seen foreign imports rise to over 40% in the last year, and we have seen a decrease in pellet making. We produce 8.2 million tons of pellets a year but this year we are scheduled to make only 6.8 million tons of pellets due to the high imports of pellets, semi-finished and finished steel into this country. Can we depend on Japan South Korea, or any other foreign country to supply us with steel if we go to war with them or their allies? Do we want to use foreign steel to build tanks, or drive shafts for submarines, or any other military defense weapons that we use in war? Do we want to jeopardize our men and women that will go to battle for this country? The United States must have adequate supplies of domestic Iron and Steel in order to maintain our defense infrastructure.

We need to ensure that our Federal Officials conducting this investigation are aware of the enormous consequences of allowing unfairly traded semi-finished steel that will decimate our Iron Ore industry. We can compete with any foreign market if put on a level playing field. I believe in fair trade not free trade, and our government must enforce the trade regulations that allow for fair trade.

Respectfully:



Richard J. Rojeski
215 SW 5th Street
Chisholm, Mn. 557 19
218-254-5939

Barbara and Gregory Shostest
5344 Vermilion Trail
Gilbert, MT 55741

March 16, 2001

Brad Botwin, Director
Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Exp. Administration
Room 3816
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Section 232

Dear Mr. Botwin:

We hope you will seriously consider the situation in the U.S. Taconite Mining and Steel Industry. Currently, LTV Steel Mine, Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota, has ceased to mine taconite in our area forcing 1400 people out of work. For every iron miner who is unemployed, two more related jobs will be lost. This is a devastation to our communities located in a very rural area. Not only will the tax base be destroyed, but our national security will be threatened with the loss of domestic steel and iron ore production. What foreign nation will supply the U.S. quickly and efficiently during a war or international crisis?

Technology and service industry jobs can not support the American economy alone. Wealth is in our natural resources.

U.S. steel workers are the most productive in the world. The Minnesota Iron Range supplies 70% of the ore used in our nation today. We produce more taconite with fewer men than we did 20 years ago.

We have sacrificed cost of living wage increases, pay cuts, less vacation time, and benefits to survive. We need your help to stop the illegal foreign steel dumping now.

"This nation is a unit though it is made up of many parts and though all its parts are many, they form one body. There should be no division in this body but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

We hope with your gift of administration, you will eagerly desire greater things for this nation and help us to help one another safeguard our freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this most pressing matter.

Truely Yours,

Barbara J. Shostet

Gregory J. Shostett

NEGAUNEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

101 SOUTH PIONEER AVENUE
NEGAUNEE, MICHIGAN 49866

(906) 475-4157

FAX (906) 475-7443

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 16, 2001

Mr. Brad Botwin, Director
Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Export Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 3876
Washington DC 20230

Dear Mr. Botwin:

As the Superintendent of Schools for the Negaunee Public School District, I am concerned with the direction the iron ore mining industry in the United States is taking. My school district is located in Marquette County of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The iron ore mines, Tilden and Empire, are the largest employer in this area.

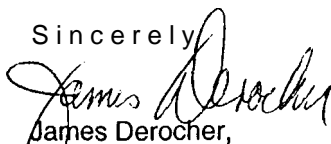
The potential displacement of iron ore products caused by imported steel would have a devastating affect on my school district and its ability to provide educational opportunities to the residents of the area. If the mines were to discontinue operation because of a lack of demand for the product, it would result in the loss of over two thousand direct mining jobs and another four thousand jobs which are directly related to mining. Those laid-off workers would end up leaving the area to find other comparable employment. With them would go their children, the students in my schools. Since our revenue source is the students, we would be forced to cut our quality education system.

Marquette County is presently working to attract more business and industry into the area. If the iron ore mines were to close down, the highly skilled work force will be forced to leave this area to find adequate employment. This will result in making it very difficult to establish a pool of skilled workers necessary to attract any replacement industry, thus continuing a downward spiral of negative economic activity which we are trying to reverse after the closure of K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in 1995.

Every school district in the Marquette County area is suffering from a declining student enrollment caused by a declining birthrate. We are facing many difficult decisions as we strive to balance our budgets and continue to provide quality education programming. Further enrollment declines would cause some school districts to cease operation. This would have a negative affect on our desire to produce economic activity in the area. As you know, quality of education is an important factor in locating new industry to an area.

I am asking that you investigate the dumping of semi-finished steel products in the United States. We need to have our government enforce the trade regulations that allow for fair competition. When the game is played on a level field, the iron ore products produced by the workers from this region will be able to compete with anyone in the world. We are proud of our product and the men and women who make it.

Sincerely,


James Derocher,
Superintendent of Schools

Joseph W. Merhar
101 Florida Ave. West
Gilbert, MN 55741

March 21, 2001

Brad Botwin, Director
Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Export Administration
U. S. Dept. of Commerce
Room 3876
Washington, D. C. 20230

Dear **Mr. Botwin,**

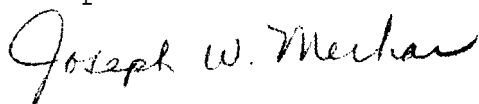
I am writing about the steel industry, **especially** the iron ore and taconite industry. I am one of the **LTV Steel** employees who lost their job when LTV chose to shut down the Hoyt Lakes plant this last January. So I know first hand how devastating it is to have so much imported iron ore and semi-finished steel. Imported steel is being dumped in this country below the cost of production. It has decimated the domestic industry.

What happens to our national security **if** all the steel plants shut down? Not to mention the millions of workers that would be out of work. There would be a decrease in revenues of the government, loss of specialized skills and productive capacity.

Something has to be done to protect the American workers for once and stop **worrying** about foreign countries. **You** don't see these countries worrying about our workers that **lose** their jobs and livelihoods. Our son is also an LTV Steel employee who lost his job. There are 1400 workers looking for work in Northern Minnesota and thousands of others in the other mining communities around the states.

Please do something now **to** help all the steel workers keep their jobs. Thank you.

Joseph W. Merhar



March 19, 2001

Mr. Brad Botwin
Director, Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Export Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 3876
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Botwin,

This letter is written to voice my support for the United States iron ore industry and its position in the Department's Section 232 investigation to determine the national security aspect of imported iron ore and semi-finished steel.

I am employed at National Steel Pellet Company, a mine near Keewatin, Minnesota. Over the years I have worked diligently to ensure that my employer is a low cost, efficient supplier to the integrated steel industry. They have invested over a hundred million dollars to upgrade and modernize our facility. Together our sacrifice and investment have made us world class competitors. Please don't allow this all to go to waste due to unfairly traded and subsidized slab steel.

Iron mining provides a substantial part of the employment base in this rural area of Minnesota. If National Steel Pellet Company is forced to close there is very little alternative industry for me to find work in. I will need to relocate my family at considerable expense with no assurance that another job that matches my skills is available. Plus I will be one of thousands in the same unenviable position.

The Department must also consider whether it is proper for this country to ask our servicemen and women to defend America with weapons systems dependent on foreign steel. If we cannot remain employed in such a basic industry so fundamental to our defense, how much will be left to defend?

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Nyberg
805 Minnesota St.
Hibbing, MN 55746
218 / 262-1077



(517) 684-7131
Fax: (517) 684-7141
www.dobsonheavyhaul.com

P.O. BOX 1368
3660 N. EUCLID AVENUE
BAY CITY, MI 48706

March 20, 2001

Mr. Brad Botwin, Director
Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Export Administration
U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Room 3876
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Sir:

Dobson Heavy Haul, Inc. has been providing services and specialties in the State of Michigan since 1947. Our company is comprised of three divisions, i.e., Fabrication, Erection Services and Rigging/Equipment Storage. We use steel in our business and also work in Michigan's mines.

We are very concerned about the importing of iron ore and semi-finished steel in this country. We know there has been a slowdown in the work at Michigan's mines. This, in turn will affect domestic production and production capacity. We are concerned about the availability of domestic steel for our business, in addition to our concern over the impact on the State's economy if Michigan's iron ore mines are shut down.

We feel very strongly that dumping of steel in this country is unfair and has the potential for a devastating impact on our economy through bankruptcies, business closings and unemployment.

Thank you for any help you can give this industry.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Bash
Chairman & CEO

DAB/md

From: "Nixon, Joan V." <jvnixon@cci-cmsc-mdo.com>
To: "BBOTWIN@bxa.doc.gov" <BBOTWIN@bxa.doc.gov>
Date: 3/23/01 1:29PM
Subject: Section 232 investigation to determine the national security impact of imported iron ore and semi-finished steel

Dear Mr. Botwin,

This letter is written to voice my support for the United States iron ore industry and its position in the Department of Commerce's Section 232 investigation to determine the national security impact of imported iron ore and semi-finished steel.

I am employed by Cliffs Mining Services Company in Ishpeming, Michigan. Over the years I have worked diligently to ensure that my employer is a low-cost, efficient supplier of iron ore to the integrated steel industry. My company and its partners have invested tens of millions of dollars to upgrade and modernize our facilities. Together our sacrifice and investment have made us world class competitors. I am urging the Department not to allow this effort to be wasted due to unfairly traded and subsidized semi-finished steel.

The Department must consider whether it is prudent for the United States armed forces to count on weapons systems, and the infrastructure used to build and deliver those systems, that would depend on steel supplied by other countries. In a time of national crisis, how reliable can we expect the supply of this vital raw material to be? To rely on a supply of steel from outside of our borders that could be compromised during a crisis invites danger and would easily put the national security of the United States at risk.

Iron mining provides a substantial part of the employment base in this rural area of Michigan. If the mines here are forced to close due to high levels of unfairly imported semi-finished steel, there are very few alternatives for those of us employed in this industry for comparable employment. I would need to relocate my family at considerable expense with no assurance that another job that matches my skills or earning power is available. I would be one of thousands in the same unenviable position.

/ We must maintain a strong national defense and that begins with reliable domestic supplies of vital raw materials such as steel and iron ore. As a nation, we must retain skilled and experienced people employed in this basic industry.

These issues are fundamental to our defense and national interests. They must be addressed in a manner that preserves and protects our national security.

I urge the Department of Commerce to take these thoughts into consideration as you determine the impact of imported iron ore and semi-finished steel on U.S. national security.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan V. Nixon



Office of the President
1401 Presque Isle Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855-5302
906-227-2242
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March 19, 2001

Mr. Brad Botwin, Director
Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Export Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 3876
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Director Botwin:

Northern Michigan University, located in Marquette County, home of the Tilden & Empire Mines and Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad, is concerned about the survival of our U.S. iron ore mining industry. Its loss would have a major effect on national security and on the Marquette County area.

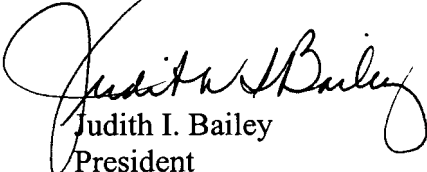
Northern's specific concern is the loss of talented young people whose families are affiliated with the mines. Of the 36% of our enrollment that is derived from Marquette County, 88% is estimated to be **from** areas where the majority of Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co. employees live. Closure of the mines due to foreign import of steel would have a devastating ripple effect on the area and on NMU.

As the third largest employer in Marquette County, NMU is responsible for a \$262 million economic impact in the Upper Peninsula. Loss of enrollment would hurt our ability to sustain strong academic programs and retain faculty and staff. Unfortunately our fixed operating costs would remain virtually the same, resulting in a decreased ability to provide services to the remaining population.

Another major concern is the loss of families with young children in Marquette County. Area public schools are already experiencing declining enrollment because of young families not having the ability to earn a sustainable living wage. And as steel imports affect CCI and related businesses, our community will continue to decline.

We will need congressional action to stop the imports and strengthen the U.S. steel industry. Anything you can do to assure this would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Judith I. Bailey
President

cw

c: Mr. Mike Prusi
Representative Bart Stupak
Senator Carl Levin
Senator Debbie Stabenow

O'BOYLE & COMPANY

1 Arrowhead Drive
MARQUETTE, MI 49855

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March 19, 2001

Brad Botwin
Director
Strategic Analysis Division
Bureau of Export Administration
United States Department of Commerce
Room 3876
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Botwin,

O'Boyle & Company is a General Contracting firm that focus's on commercial and residential construction. We have been in business since 1975 and have witnessed first hand the effects of slow downs in the Iron Mining Industry.

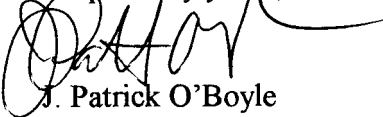
In the past when the Empire and Tilden Mines have had to shut down due to low sales or strikes, we see an immediate and adverse effect on our business. Even though we do not work directly for C.C.I., we do build new homes and remodel existing homes for C.C.I. employees. We build car dealerships, and stores that rely on the miners dollars to keep there business's open and their people employed. We have done work on some of the local schools and for area teachers who owe their job in some part to the monies the schools receive **from** the State of Michigan for each student enrolled, including those of C.C.I. employees.

For the calendar year 2000 we had a total payroll of **\$1,488,261.23**. If we can not find enough work to keep our employees going we have to start our own round of layoffs. When our people are out of work they do not buy new cars, televisions, furniture or other consumer goods. They do not purchase recreational item. They do not go to local restaurants or movie theaters.

Every day we go head to head with our competitors when bidding for work. We do not ask for nor look for any special treatment. All we ask is to compete on a level playing field.

I believe foreign steel firms have an unfair advantage over our domestic companies and something must be done to level the field. Not only is our local economy at stake, but I believe the loss of domestic steel production would have serious adverse effects on the future of our nation and it's defenses.

Respectfully yours,



J. Patrick O'Boyle
President

JPO/tmh